

Message Text

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63

ACTION SR-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 VO-03 ORM-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCA-01 DRC-01 /077 W

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R 141737Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9289

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 18044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI, GW, SREF, UN

SUBJECT: GERMAN ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEES FROM CHILE

REF: STATE 243139

1. FONOFF HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A) ABOUT 470 NAMES RECOMMENDED BY FRG EMBASSY SANTIAGO AND BY FRG SELECTION TEAM IN CHILE HAVE SO FAR BEEN APPROVED FOR ENTRY INTO FRG.

THIS FIGURE INCLUDES DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBERS.

B) 79 HAVE ACTUALLY ARRIVED AS OF DECEMBER 14 AND FONOFF EXPECTS ABOUT AN EQUAL NUMBER IN THE NEXT WEEK.

C) OF THE TOTAL SO FAR APPROVED, FONOFF ESTIMATES THAT LESS THAN 150 FALL INTO CATEGORY OF "ENDANGERED PERSONS," I.E. PERSONS WHO WOULD REALLY RISK THEIR LIVES OR LONG IMPRISONMENT BY STAYING IN CHILE. HOWEVER, OUR FONOFF CONTACT NOTES THAT IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR FRG REPS IN CHILE TO DISTINGUISH THIS GROUP FROM THOSE WHO, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE SIMPLY OUT OF WORK AND MIGHT FIND IT DIFFICULT UNDER THE NEW REGIME TO GET AN APPROPRIATE JOB.

D) FRG HAS NOT FIXED LIMIT TO NUMBER OF REFUGEES

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IT IS WILLING TO TAKE, BUT FONOFF HOPES THAT AS

PRACTICAL MATTER THIS NUMBER WILL NOT GREATLY EXCEED THE FIGURE ALREADY APPROVED. IN THIS CONNECTION, FONOFF REP NOTES THAT, WHILE THIS CANNOT BE SAID PUBLICLY, FONOFF RATHER WELCOMES CHILEAN DECISION TO ISSUE NO MORE EXIT VISAS TO REFUGEES IN EMBASSIES OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH CHILE HAS NO ASYLUM AGREEMENTS.

E) FONOFF HAS ESTABLISHED A WORKING GROUP ON CHILEAN REFUGEES HEADED BY DIRECTOR OF OFFICE FOR WESTERN LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

2. COMMENT: THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY SOME INITIAL RESISTANCE HERE FROM THE FONOFF AND FROM SECURITY AGENCIES TO THE IDEA OF PERMITTING SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF CHILEAN REFUGEES TO ENTER FRG. REASON, QUITE SIMPLY, IS THAT SECURITY-MINDED OFFICIALS SUSPECT THAT MANY REFUGEES WILL GRAVITATE NATURALLY INTO RADICAL GROUPS IN FRG, PARTICULARLY AT UNIVERSITIES, AND CREATE TROUBLE THERE. THIS WAS WHY, ONCE DECISION MADE TO ACCEPT REFUGEES, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION WAS SENT ALONG AS MEMBER OF FRG SELECTION TEAM. IN THE END, THESE SECURITY CONCERNS WERE OBVIOUSLY OUTWEIGHED BY POLITICAL PRESSURE TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, AND CHANCELLOR BRANDT HAS NOW GONE ON RECORD AS SAYING THAT THE FRG WILL PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY ASSISTANCE IN AN UNBUREAUCRATIC WAY AND WITHOUT IMPOSING NUMERICAL LIMITS. IT IS OBVIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT DIFFICULTIES COULD ARISE IF THE NUMBERS WENT VERY HIGH, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE REFUGEES WILL NEED JOBS AND THEY ARE ARRIVING IN THE FRG AT A TIME WHEN, BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES CONNECTED WITH THE ENERGY CRISIS, THE JOBS OF MANY FOREIGN WORKERS ALREADY HERE ARE BEING PUT INTO QUESTION.

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